

AB 1595

Language on Purpose and Responsibilities of State Council Regional Offices and Advisory Committees

4520. (e) (1) The Legislature finds that the council faces unique challenges in ensuring access and furthering these principles (contained in the DD Act) due to the state's size, diversity, and a service delivery system that promotes significant local control.

(2) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the state council, consistent with its authority and responsibilities under federal law, **ensure that the council is accessible and responsive to the diverse, geographic, racial, ethnic, and language needs of persons with developmental disabilities and their families throughout California, which in part may, as determined by the council, be achieved through the establishment of regional offices, the number and location of which may be determined by the council.**

Article 6. State Council Regional Offices and Advisory Committees

4544. (a) The state council may establish **regional offices that are accessible to and responsive to the diverse geographic, ethnic, and language needs of consumers and families throughout the state.** As of January 1, 2015, regional offices of the state council, in existence as of December 31, 2014, shall continue to exist, within the same geographic regions of the state. *Effective January 1, 2015, the state council shall have full authority in establishing, maintaining, and operating any regional offices, including the number and location of those offices.*

(b) To ensure involvement of persons with developmental disabilities, their families, and other members of the public at the regional level and to ensure the responsiveness of the state council to the geographic, ethnic, and language diversity of the state, any regional office established by the council may be advised by a regional advisory committee. As of January 1, 2015, advisory boards of the regional offices, known as area boards on developmental disabilities, in existence on December 31, 2014, shall thereafter be known as state council regional advisory committees.

(d) Any state council regional offices and advisory committees established by the state council shall be constituted and shall operate according to policies and procedures that may be established by the council.

4545. The state council may periodically review the number and geographic boundaries of regional offices needed to effectively implement this division, by methods including, but not limited to, conducting public hearings in affected regions and seeking input from regional advisory committees, persons with developmental disabilities, family members, service providers, advocates, and other interested parties. Public notice shall be provided at least 120 days before any changes in the number of or boundaries of regional offices.

4546. The membership of any regional advisory committees established or continued by the state council prior to January 1, 2015, shall, upon expiration of the terms of individuals who are members of those committees on January 1, 2015, be determined through policies and procedures established by the council.

4548. Any regional advisory committee established shall, at the request of the council, do all of the following:

(a) Advise the council and its regional office on local issues and identify and provide input regarding local systemic needs within its community.

(b) Provide input and be a source of data for the council to consider in the formulation of the state plan.

(c) Provide public information programs for consumers, families, professional groups, and for the general public to increase professional and public awareness of areas identified in the state plan.

(d) Engage in other activities as requested by the council.

4550. The state council's operating costs may include honoraria for state council members and actual and necessary expenses for state council members and regional advisory committee members, as described in this article, and other administrative, professional, and secretarial support services necessary to the operation of the state council. Federal developmental disability funds received by the state under Public Law 106-402 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 15001 et seq.), shall be allotted in any one year for these operating costs. Each member of the state council shall receive one hundred dollars (\$100) per day for each full day of work performed directly related to council business, not to exceed 50 days in any fiscal year, and shall be reimbursed for any actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties under this division.

4562. (a) The state council shall conduct activities necessary to develop and implement the state plan in the various regions of the state.

(b) The state plan and its implementation shall be responsive to the needs of the state's diverse geographic, racial, ethnic, and language communities.

(c) In preparing this plan, the council may utilize information provided by any regional offices and regional advisory committees of the state council, statewide and local entities, individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, and other interested parties, to help identify and prioritize actions needed to improve California's system of services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities.

(d) The purpose of the plan shall be to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive system of community services and supports that is consumer and family centered and consumer and family directed, and to enable individuals with developmental disabilities to exercise self-determination, independence, productivity, and to be integrated and included in all facets of community life.

4563. The state council shall assess the extent to which services, supports, and other forms of assistance are available to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout the state and for the diverse populations of the state. The council shall develop goals and objectives, based on the identified needs and priorities, to be included in the state plan.